

**Jim Doyle**  
Governor

**Roberta Gassman**  
Secretary



**State of Wisconsin**

**Department of Workforce Development**

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## **West Central Wisconsin Regional Development Coalition Receives \$80,000 “GROW” Grant**

*Money Will Support Area Workforce Development and Economic Growth*

**Eau Claire** – Today, Department of Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman announced the West Central Wisconsin Regional Development Coalition will receive an \$80,000 Growing Regional Opportunities in Wisconsin (GROW) grant towards workforce development and economic growth.

“Governor Doyle’s Grow Wisconsin plan has been a catalyst for regional workforce and economic development, and I applaud the Coalition’s leadership and their work to bridge geographic boundaries and develop strong partnerships with regional economic, government, education, business and labor leaders,” said Secretary Gassman.

GROW funding will support efforts to complete a comprehensive analysis and strategic plan for region-wide workforce development efforts, enhance employer participation for better coordination of employment training services with area businesses, and identify regional entrepreneurship opportunities connected with the area’s close proximity to the Twin Cities.

The West Central Wisconsin Regional Development Coalition is guided by the Business Leadership team of the West Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board and partner Job Center organizations. The Regional Development Coalition is focused on the creation of quality jobs for qualified workers in Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix counties.

“The Coalition’s progress will greatly complement the work of the Governor’s Council on Workforce Investment,” said Secretary Gassman. “As we develop our workforce and increase career opportunities, we also strengthen our local economy and excite current and prospective employers.”

The GROW grants were established as part of Governor Doyle’s “Grow Wisconsin” initiative.

The funds are available through the state Council on Workforce Investment and are administered by DWD. In 2005, a total of \$465,000 was granted to seven regions to cover the state. An additional \$500,000 is available in 2006 to build upon the successes of the local collaborations to continue to promote regional workforce and economic approaches throughout Wisconsin.

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